

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 SP-03 NSC-07 EB-11 TRSE-00 XMB-07

AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CPR-02 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 SY-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 M-02 L-03 H-03

DOT-00 DRC-01 /151 W

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P 100708Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4771

UNCLAS SEOUL 4462

PASS EXIM BANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BMEP, KS

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT, KIMPO AIRPORT EXPANSION

REF: SEOUL 4300, STATE A-3450

1. IN RESPONSE TO REPAIR THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH BOTH THE ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD (EPB) AND THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION (MOT) CONCERNING THE PLANNED KIMPO EXPANSION.

2. KOREAN GOVERNMENT EAGER TO GET ON WITH KIMPO EXPANSION PROJECT, BUT CANNOT DUE TO DELAY IN HAVING TAMS REVIEW ORIGINAL AIRWAYS ENGINEERING CO. (AEC) STUDY ON WHICH EXPANSION PLANS WERE BASED. MOT OFFICIALS FEEL TAMS REVIEW NECESSARY DUE TO NUMBER FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES SINCE AEC STUDY, NOTABLY PLANNED ELIMINATION OF ROKAF OPERATION ON KIMPO FREEING LARGE AREA FOR CIVILIAN USE, AND TRAFFIC GROWTH FAR MORE RAPID THAN PROJECTED BY AEC.

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3. EPB OFFICIALS REPORT EXIM BANK WILL NOT CONSIDER

TAMS REVIEW OF AEC STUDY RESULTS AS THIS NOT PART OF INITIAL AGREEMENT. EPB OFFICIALS ASSERT THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO ORDERLY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THEY DO NOT PLAN REQUEST INCREASED LOAN FROM EXIM. RESULTS OF REVIEW EXPECTED TO BE ESSENTIALLY RELOCATION OF FACILITIES AND CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE, HOWEVER IF TAMS REVIEW SHOULD SHOW NEED FOR MORE AMBITIOUS EXPANSION EPB OFFICIALS SAY ROKG WILL PICK UP THE TAB.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES ROKG CASE FOR REVIEW HAS MERIT. BESIDES NOT INCLUDING REMOVAL OF ROKAF FACILITY (-5 THAT TIME ROKAF REFUSED TO MOVE), PREVIOUS STUDY, COMPLETED IN 1971 BASED ON 1969 FIGURES, SHOWED KIMPO AIRPORT WOULD HIT MILLION PASSENGER MARK IN 1975 WHEN IN REALITY THIS OCCURED IN 1973. THOUGH KIMPO TRAFFIC IS DOWN THIS YEAR, GENERAL TREND OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN KOREA INDICATES BUSY YEARS AHEAD.

5. AS REPORTED REFTEL, TAE, WAN SON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER WILL BE TRAVELING U.S. JULY 8. ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TAE WILL DISCUSS WITH EXIM BANK WILL BE KIMPO PROJECT.

HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL04462
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-0438
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740761/aaaabzzc.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SEOUL 4300, STATE A-3450
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAJOR PROJECT, KIMPO AIRPORT EXPANSION
TAGS: BEXP, KS
To: COM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005